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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/766,991

01/29/2004

Harsh Pramod Oke

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08/10/2007

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EXAMINER

LUU, CUONG V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2128

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/10/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/766,991

Applicant(s)

OKE, HARSH PRAMOD

Examiner

Cuong V. Luu

Art Unit

2128

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-16, 18 and 19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-16 and 18-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/22/2007 has been entered.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-16 and 18-19 are pending. Claims 2, 7, 12, and 17 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-16 and 18-19 have been examined. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-16 and 18-19 have been rejected.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-16, and 18-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2128

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-16, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maguire in view of Kruger et al (U.S. Pub. 2003/0063702 A1) and Chow et al (U.S. Pub. 2003/0083827).

2. As per claim 1, Maguire teaches a modular method of modeling a power plant, the power plant comprising a plurality of major components including at least one of a gas turbine, a heat recovery steam generator, a steam turbine, and a condenser/cooling tower (col. 14, lines 17-22), said method comprising:

selecting a major component module model from a library of component module models for each major component of the power plant, each major component module representing a power plant major component of a unique configuration (col. 14, lines 13-17);

inputting initial model information into a database for the selected modules, the initial model information including at least one of operating parameters, design data, convergence criteria, and a maximum number of passes (col. 5, lines 31-34);

running the modular model by running each selected module and enabling data exchange between the selected modules (col. 9, lines 20-24).

generating a result that indicates the performance of the major components of the power plant (col. 3, lines 36-39);

however, Maguire does not teach:

running each selected module comprises running the selected modules successively until interface conditions converge; and

inputting the initial model information into a spreadsheet associated with each selected module.

Art Unit: 2128

Kruger teaches inputting initial model information comprises inputting initial model information into a spreadsheet (paragraph 0122).

Chow teaches running each selected module comprises running the selected modules successively until interface conditions converge (p. 2 paragraph 0021-0022).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Maguire, Chow, and Kruger. Kruger's and Chow's teachings would have facilitated information to be easily added to selected graphs generated by the modeling/simulation program (Kruger, paragraph 0122) and reduced the time and effort to analyze power plan configurations as desired (Chow, p. 1 paragraph 0007).

3. As per claim 3, Maguire teaches running the modular model comprises running the modular model by running each selected module in succession and passing the results from a module to the next module in succession (col. 9, lines 20-24).
4. As per claim 4, Maguire teaches running each selected module in succession comprises running each selected module in a predetermined order (col. 9, lines 20-24).
5. As per claim 5, Maguire teaches creating a library of major component module models (col. 14, lines 13-15. In these lines, Maguire teaches providing a list or library of components, which implies that a library has been created).
6. As per claim 6, these limitations have already been discussed in claim 1. They are, therefore, rejected for the same reasons.

7. As per claim 8, these limitations have already been discussed in claim 3. They are, therefore, rejected for the same reasons.
8. As per claim 9, these limitations have already been discussed in claim 4. They are, therefore, rejected for the same reasons.
9. As per claim 10, these limitations have already been discussed in claim 5. They are, therefore, rejected for the same reasons.
10. As per claim 11, these limitations have already been discussed in claim 1. They are, therefore, rejected for the same reasons.
11. As per claim 13, these limitations have already been discussed in claim 3. They are, therefore, rejected for the same reasons.
12. As per claim 14, these limitations have already been discussed in claim 4. They are, therefore, rejected for the same reasons.
13. As per claim 15, these limitations have already been discussed in claim 5. They are, therefore, rejected for the same reasons.
14. As per claim 16, Maguire teaches a power plant modular modeling system comprising a database operationally coupled to computer, said database comprising a library of power plant major component module models, each major component

Art Unit: 2128

module representing a power plant major component of a unique configuration (col. 2, lines 61-63; col. 5, lines 16-27; col. 14, lines 13-15), said computer configured to:

create a power plant model by selecting a major component module model from the library of component module models for each major component of the power plant;

link the selected modules together to enable data exchange between modules;

receive initial model information from a user for the selected modules, the initial model information including at least one of operating parameters, design data, convergence criteria, and a maximum number of passes; and

run the modular model by running each selected module including exchanging data between the selected modules.

The limitations above have already been discussed in claim 1. They are, therefore, rejected for the same reasons. However, Maguire does not teach:

running each selected module comprises running the selected modules successively until interface conditions converge; and

inputting the initial model information into a spreadsheet associated with each selected module.

Kruger teaches inputting initial model information comprises inputting initial model information into a spreadsheet (paragraph 0122).

Chow teaches running each selected module comprises running the selected modules successively until interface conditions converge (p. 2 paragraph 0021-0022).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Maguire, Chow, and Kruger. Kruger's and Chow's teachings would have facilitated information to be easily added to selected graphs generated by the

modeling/simulation program (Kruger, paragraph 0122) and reduced the time and effort to analyze power plan configurations as desired (Chow, p. 1 paragraph 0007).

15. As per claim 18, these limitations have already been discussed in claim 3. They are, therefore, rejected for the same reasons.

16. As per claim 19, these limitations have already been discussed in claim 4. They are, therefore, rejected for the same reasons.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cuong V. Luu whose telephone number is 571-272-8572. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamini Shah, can be reached on 571-272-2279. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. An inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC2100 Group receptionist: 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Art Unit: 2128

CVL


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